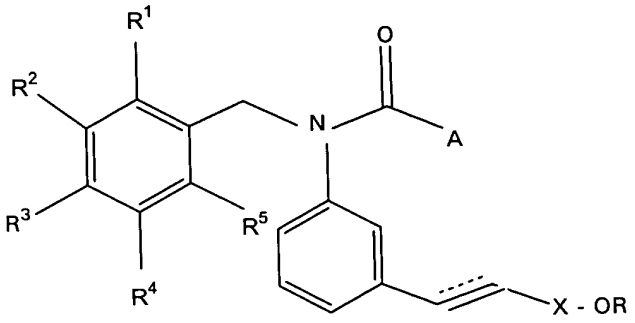
That which is claimed is:

1. A compound having the structure:



wherein:

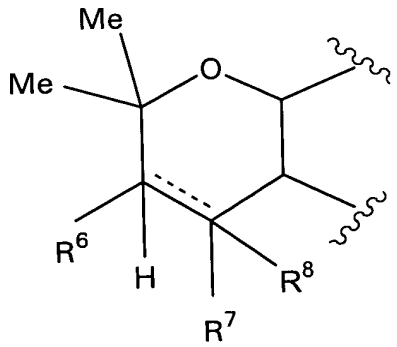
A is a C3 up to C8 branched chain alkyl or substituted alkyl group, a C3 up to C7 cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl,

X is –C(O)- or $-CH_2-$,

R is methyl or ethyl,

R^1 is H, hydroxy, alkoxy, benzoyloxy, mesityloxy, or $-OCH_2C(O)OC_2H_5$,

R^2 is H or R^2 can cooperate with R^3 to form a benzopyran, wherein the pyran ring has the structure:



wherein:

R^6 is not present if the pyran ring is unsaturated, or, if present, is selected from H, -OR, wherein R is alkyl or acyl, or R^6 can cooperate with R^7 to form a cyclic acetal, a cyclic ketal, or a cyclopropyl moiety, and

only one of R^7 and R^8 is present if the pyran ring is unsaturated, or R^7 and R^8 are independently H, carboxyl, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, or R^7 and R^8 taken together comprise a carbonyl oxygen or an oxime nitrogen, or either R^7 or R^8 can cooperate with R^6 to form a cyclic acetal, a cyclic ketal, or a cyclopropyl moiety,

R^3 can cooperate with R^2 to form a benzopyran having the structure set forth above, or R^3 is alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, or optionally substituted arylalkenyl or heteroarylalkenyl,

R^4 is H or hydroxy, and

R^5 is H, hydroxy, alkoxy or aryloxy.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^2 and R^3 cooperate to form a benzopyran.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is cyclopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 are absent, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

4. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is cyclopropyl, X is $-CH_2-$, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 are absent, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

5. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 are absent, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

6. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is phenyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 are absent, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

7. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is phenyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 cooperate to form a dichlorocyclopropyl ring, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

8. The compound of claim 2 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 is methoxy, R^6 and R^7 cooperate to form a dichlorocyclopropyl ring, and R^4, R^5 and R^8 are hydrogen.

9. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 is alkenyl.

10. The compound of claim 9 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-C(O)-O-tBu.

11. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl.

12. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is phenyl.

13. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is p-thiomethyl-phenyl.

14. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is m-methoxy-phenyl.

15. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is m-acetyl-phenyl.

16. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 5-methyl-2-thiophene-yl.

17. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 5-acetyl-2-thiophene-yl.

18. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 4-dimethylamino-phenyl.

19. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 4-dimethylamino-phenyl.

20. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 2,3-(O-CH_2-O)-phenyl.

21. The compound of claim 11 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is 2,3-(O-CH_2-O)-phenyl.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 is or optionally substituted arylalkenyl or heteroarylalkenyl.

23. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-phenyl.

24. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-phenyl.

25. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-p-methoxy-phenyl.

26. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-o-fluoro-phenyl.

27. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-o-fluoro-phenyl.

28. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-m-fluoro-phenyl.

29. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-m-fluoro-phenyl.

30. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is cyclohexyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-p-fluoro-phenyl.

31. The compound of claim 22 wherein A is isopropyl, X is -C(O)-, R^1 R^2, R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen, and R^3 is –CH=CH-p-fluoro-phenyl.

32. A formulation comprising at least one compound according to claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

33. A method for modulating process(es) mediated by farnesoid X receptor polypeptides, said method comprising conducting said process(es) in the presence of an effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said process mediated by farnesoid X receptor is cholesterol metabolism.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein said process mediated by farnesoid X receptor is the regulation of lipid homeostasis.

36. A method for the treatment of hypercholestemia, said method comprising administering an effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

37. A method for the treatment of cholestasis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.